

French Offer of Mediation.

The President yesterday sent to the Senate, in answer to a resolution of inquiry the diplomatic correspondence in reference to the French proffer of mediation. The proffer of mediation is made in a note from the French minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Drouyn De L'Huys, to M. Mercier, dated on the 9th of January. The tone of the note is very courteous and friendly. Without stopping the progress of the war, the French Minister proposes the appointment of Commissioners by the U. S. Government and the Confederate authorities, to meet at some point to be declared neutral, and endeavor to arrange terms of peace. The argument in favor of such a course presented by the French Government is to the effect that such a meeting of delegated Commissioners might tend to an amicable settlement of differences and the restoration of the Union, and is accompanied by assurances of a sincere interest in the prosperity of the country. Mr. Seward, in quite a lengthy and argumentative letter, replies to the proposition of the French Minister, that the assembling of such a commission would be without constitutional sanction, and that the results of this conference could have no binding effect on either of the contending parties. The only manner in which the parties can come together for consultations would be for the return of Senators and Representatives from the Confederate States to their vacant seats in Congress where they can not only discuss and take binding action on the differences existing, but call a Convention of all the States for altering and remodeling the Constitution of the United States. Attention is also called to the fact that Senators and Representatives of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Virginia and Maryland, and parts of Louisiana, States claimed by the Confederate Government, are already represented in that body, and their Representatives are taking part in the discussion of the troubles of the country—and that Representatives are also expected from Arkansas. The determination of the Government and people to maintain the Federal Union is stated in unmistakable terms, and the proposition for the appointment of Commissioners respectfully declined.

The members of the church of which the late Dr. Beecher was at one time pastor, have adopted a resolution declaring that they will have no more political preaching in their church, and that the gospel alone shall be expounded to them by their preacher.

Gen. Fremont writes to the New York Evening Post a flat denial of the allegations made by Gen. Pope in his report of January 27th respecting the demoralization of the army corps of Gen. F., "a sad report of which," Gen. Pope says, "was made to me by Gen. Sigel when he relieved Gen. Fremont in command of the corps." Gen. Fremont quotes what Sigel did report, and in concluding, says "General Pope's remark concerning my corps is not supported by the authority of General Sigel, is contradicted positively by their conduct in the field, and is in my knowledge without foundation in fact."

There is a movement among the colored people of Washington, looking to the formation of a negro regiment. They are only waiting the action of the Senate and the President on the bill; and as soon as it passes, arrangements will be made at once for enlisting. Among the most active in this matter are Rev. H. M. Turner, of Israel church, Capitol Hill, and Jos. E. Williams, who has figured heretofore as agent for Central American colonization. Both these parties will be authorized to recruit as soon as the bill passes.

The name of "Lieut. C. S. Shafer, 1st D. C. Volunteers," appears in the list of army officers dismissed from the service for absence without leave. There has been no officer of that name connected with either the 1st or 2d District of Columbia regiments.

Gen. Benham has been restored to his grade in the U. S. Army, and it is said that he will be appointed to Gen. Hooker's old command.

The Washington Chronicle advocates Senator Sherman's bill authorizing the issue of bank bills on the credit of the government.—The Chronicle says: "This bill proposes that for this privilege of issuing bank paper, the credit of the whole country should be the basis. At the same time the existing bank circulation is to be taxed as a legitimate subject of taxation."

Tom Thumb and his wife have arrived in Washington, last night, and attended a ball at Williard's Hotel.

A negro man accidentally shot and killed a negro woman in Washington, on Wednesday. He gave himself up for trial.

The soldier who attempted to rob the post-office at Annapolis, Md., some time since, has confessed, and given himself up for trial.

The report of the Senate Committee on the Banks' expedition, bears very hard upon Mr. John Tucker, the Assistant Secretary of War.

Com. Kelley, an old U. S. naval officer, died a few days ago, aged 68.

All the sutlers' clerks and U. S. government employees confined in Richmond, have just been released.

The Baltimore Sun says that the developments made by the Senate Committee, of the frauds perpetrated on the government by the persons engaged in getting the vessels for the Banks' expedition, "have created a profound sensation."

Rev. James W. Hunnicutt, for many years editor of the Christian Banner at Fredericksburg, Virginia, has published a volume of four hundred and fifty pages, entitled "The Conspiracy Unveiled, or, 'The Horrors of Secession.'"

The New York Sun says:—The news from Washington indicates that Mr. Seward is master of his situation. He has not merely spiked the cannon of the radicals, but has succeeded in turning it against them. The Senators who a few weeks ago conspired to drive him from the Cabinet now feel the power they have heretofore wielded slipping from their hands."

The escape of Captain Wyne, the British spy, from the Old Capitol prison, was accomplished through the assistance of one of the outside guard, who was detected, and has been in close, solitary confinement ever since.

Lord Lyons has sent to all of the British Consuls in North America a copy of a despatch which his Lordship has received from Secretary Seward, and has directed each of them to notify him when this despatch reaches their respective Consulates. Secretary Seward in this despatch gives currency to rumors that the blockade of Galveston "may have been interrupted," but goes on to declare that the blockade was resumed immediately, and will be continued until further notice.

The House of Delegates of Illinois has passed the Democracy Peace resolutions by a vote of 52 to 28.

JUST RECEIVED.

3000 bushels Potatoes.
300 bbls. do.
500 " Prime Apples.
100 " Cider.
75 " Pickles.
100 kegs Glades Butter.
50 " Goshen do.
25 bbls. Prime Roll do.
200 York State Cheese.
200 English Dairy do.
9,000 lbs. Codfish.
10 bbls. Fresh Eggs.

Also, keep constantly on hand, Syrup, Sugar, Hams, Mackerel, Herring, Tobacco, Segars, Sutler's supplies, &c. &c.

Jan 17—1m

PITKIN & CO.
No. 25, King street.

JOHN T. COOKE,
CHEAP FAMILY GROCER,
CORNER PITT AND PRINCE STREETS.
HAS constantly on hand, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Mackerel, in barrels, half barrels, and kits; Salmon, Potomac Herring, Smoked Halibut, Smoked Herring, and Smoked Beef. Also, a choice brand of Sugar Cured Hams, for family use; Shoulders and Breasts, and a general assortment of goods for family supplies. Call and examine. dec 2

E. S. FLEMING,
WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER,
NO. 86 KING STREET.
WATCHES, CLOCKS and JEWELRY carefully repaired, and all work warranted. ed.

Old Gold and Silver purchased at the highest rates.

CLOCKS put in repair at the shortest notice. Jan 23—1m

C. C. BRADLEY,
Cabinet, Chair and Sofa Manufactory,
CORNER KING AND ALFRED STREETS,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

HAS constantly on hand, and offers to the public, an excellent assortment of CABINET WARE, SOFAS and CHAIRS of every variety, and on the lowest cash terms, which, for durability and finish, cannot be surpassed. my 16—tf

F. G. SWAINE & CO.
CHEAP FAMILY GROCERY,
No. 26 North Royal street.
A full supply of family groceries always on hand. Jan 10

ACCOMMODATION EXPRESS
BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA.
THE undersigned begs to inform the citizens of Alexandria and vicinity that he will, on Monday, January 26th, commence running an EXPRESS between Alexandria and Washington, for the purpose of conveying any and all articles (not contraband) of freight. Orders may be left at Rosenthal's shoe store, No. 48 King street, Alexandria, or at McGregor's furniture store, No. 530 7th street, Washington. All business entrusted to his care will be promptly attended to. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.
Jan 6—1m W. M. DODGE.

CORN MEAL AND HORSE FEED.—The subscribers, having rented the mill lately occupied by Meade & Maryc, on Union street, No. 49, are now grinding

CORN MEAL AND HORSE FEED, which will be sold, in quantities to suit purchasers, at the lowest market price.
nov 17—3m DELAHAY & BROWN.

THE CHEAPEST
COAL OIL,
In the city, to be had at
COGAN'S,
NO. 15 ROYAL STREET.
25 BBLS. of the best OIL ever manufactured just received.

On hand, a large and splendid assortment of LAMPS, of all styles, together with GAS FIXTURES in variety, at extremely low prices. Look to your interest, and call at the right place. Jan 26—tf

JOHN E. HENDERSON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER,
226, CORNER KING AND ALFRED STREETS.
HAS constantly on hand a large and well selected stock of FAMILY GROCERIES, which he offers cheap for cash. sep 30—tf